

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 RSR-01 /046 W
----- 037554

R 130801 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3729

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: ETRN, RP
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - US PROPOSAL FOR RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 043181

1. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND PHIL CAB HAS BEEN STUDYING U. S. PROPOSAL, EXEC SECY MELCHOR STATES THAT GOP NOT LIKELY PROVIDE DEFINITIVE RESPONSE UNTIL PROGRESS MADE TOWARD INTEGRATION AND REORGANIZATION OF PHIL CIVIL AVIATION INDUSTRY. GOP SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED MARCH 10 PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO CONSOLIDATE THREE PHILIPPINE CARRIERS INTO SINGLE AIRLINE, AND CABINET LEVEL MEETING WITH AIRLINE EXECUTIVES SCHEDULED MARCH 14 TO WORK OUT DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS. ACCORDING GOP AND AVIATION INDUSTRY SOURCES, DIFFICULT FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER QUESTIONS REMAIN UNRESOLVED. (DETAILS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.)

2. WE MADE CLEAR TO MELCHOR OUR CONCERN AT DELAY IN GOP RESPONSE, IN PART BECAUSE OF POSSIBILITY U. S. PROPOSAL MIGHT REACH U. S. CARRIERS BEFORE THEY CAN BE GIVEN PROPER BRIEFING BY USG IN LIGHT OF GOP RESPONSE. MELCHOR RECOGNIZED PROBLEM BUT REITERATED VIEW THAT FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF PHILIPPINE AVIATION INDUSTRY MUST FIRST BE RESOLVED. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBOFFS, U. S. AIRLINE REP AGREED THAT GOP WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FORMULATE POSITION RE US- RP CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL LOCAL AIRLINE ISSUE SETTLED AND PREDICTED AT LEAST THREE

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MONTHS WOULD BE REQUIRED, PROBABLY MORE.

3. COMMENT. WE WILL CONTINUE PRESS GOP TO MAKE RESPONSE WHICH WOULD ENABLE FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD CIVAIR TALKS. WE BELIEVE PRESIDENT MARCOS AND TOP AIDES HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE GIVE PROPOSAL FULL ATTENTION AND HOPE THAT CONTINUED EFFORT ON OUR PART WILL ELICIT RESPONSE, PERHAPS AS SOON AS MAIN LINES OF FUTURE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CARRIER OPERATIONS ARE WORKED OUT. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE TACTICALLY USEFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD GIVE US INFORMAL INDICATION OF DATES DURING NEXT THREE TO SIX MONTHS U. S. TEAM WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOP.

BYROADE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpegh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MANILA02876
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730325/aaaahnip.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 043181
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971120
Subject: CIVAIR - US PROPOSAL FOR RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: ETRN, RP
To: EB
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005